GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4389
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2005
POST TSUNAMI PLANS FOR ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to develop the Post-Tsunam Andaman NicobarIslands as the largest organic farming Island in the World;

(b) if so, the details of strategy in this regard;

(c) whether the genetically modified organism have been banned in organic agriculture and food processing; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve organic farming in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):

(a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal to develop Andaman Nicobar Islands as the largest organised farming Island in the world.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A new scheme `National Project on Organic Farming` has been taken up by the Government recently with an outlay of Rs. 57.05 crores during the 10th Plan for production, promotion, certification and market development of organic farming in the country. The main component of the scheme are:

(i) Putting in place a system of certification of organic produce.

(ii) Capacity building through service providers.

(iii) Financial support for commercial production units for production or organic inputs like fruits & vegetable waste compost, bio-fertilizer production and hatcheries for Vermiculture.

(iv) Training, field demonstration, Promotion & market development. Besides, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has taken many initiatives for enhancing export of organic produce like accreditation of inspection and certification agencies, organization of awareness programmes, preparation of a directory on organic farms, training programmes in inspection and certification, etc.